

Amendments to the Specification:

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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-- As material for retardation films we used azopolymers and cinnamates. Structural formulae of the used polymers are shown in Fig.1. Both materials were comb-like polymers with azobenzene fragments in the side chains connected by flexible alkyl spacers to the polymer backbone. Side chains of the azopolymer 1 (Fig. 1A) contained polar NO_2 groups. The side chains in azopolymer 2 (Fig. 1B) have hydrophobic alkyl groups $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}] \text{OC}_4\text{H}_9$ attached to the azobenzene moiety. The difference in the chemical structure of the side chains was expected to influence the difference in the supramolecular structure of azobenzene moieties. Due to flexibility of alkyl spacers, the azobenzene fragments could rotate relatively freely in the polymer matrix. Since their concentration in the polymer was high enough, they could form mesophases within some temperature intervals. --